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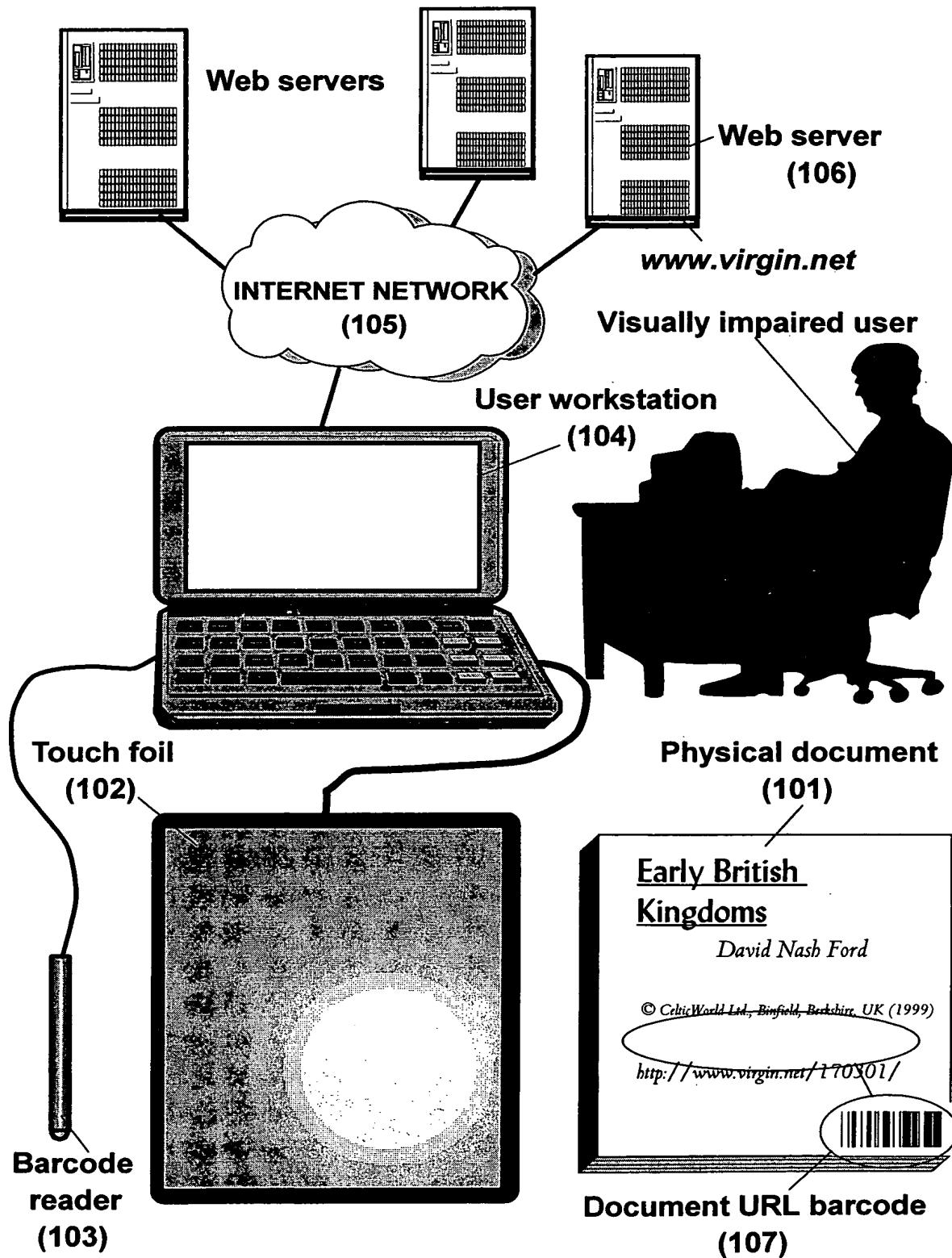
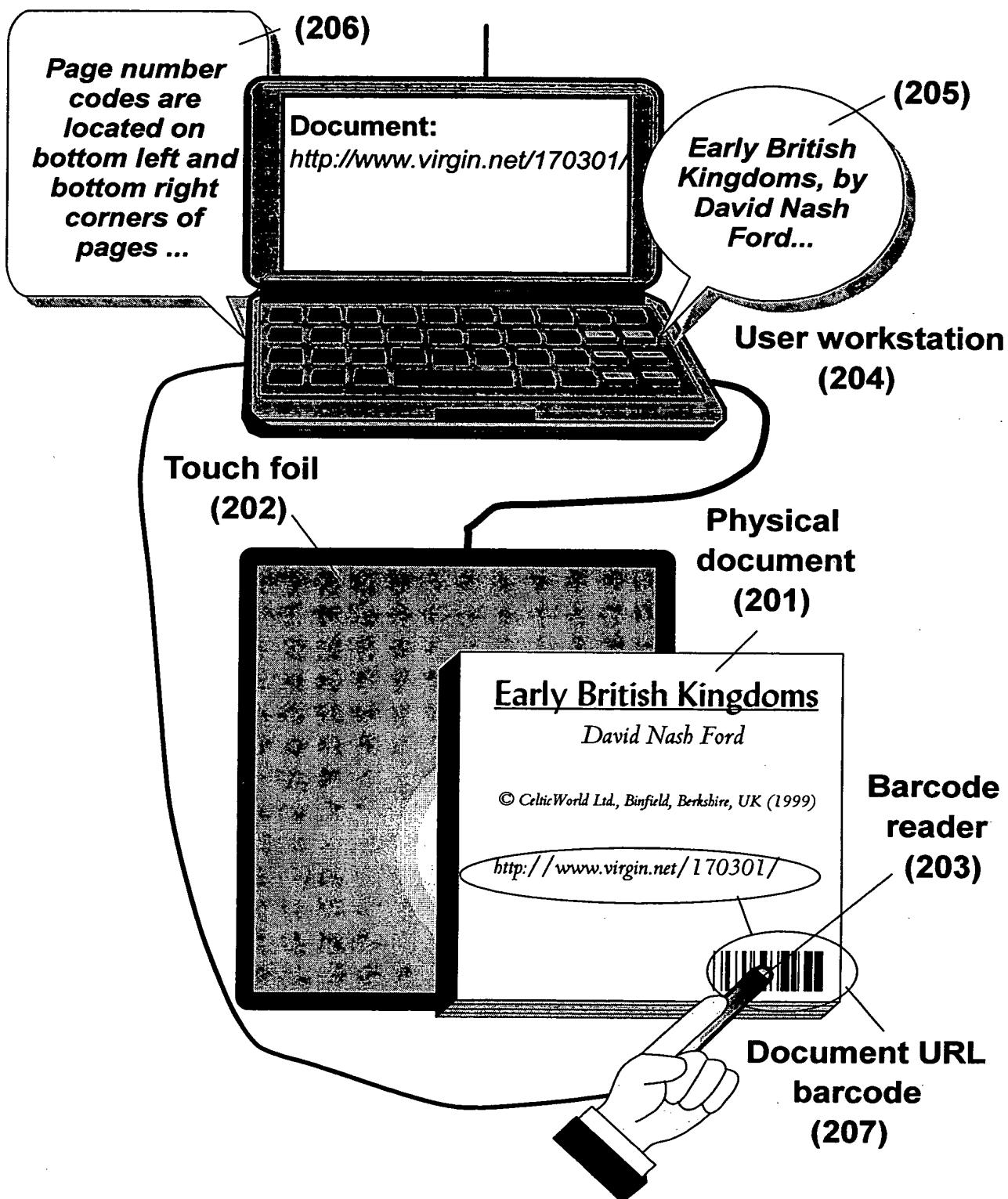


FIG. 1



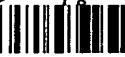
**FIG. 2**

(300)

### Arthur the Myth

Some people believe that King Arthur is so inextricably tied up in Celtic Mythology that he must, in origin, have been, not a man at all, but a God. Like so many other characters featured in the Mabinogion, Arthur in his earliest form, appears almost entirely mythical. He and his companions have superhuman strength and abilities, and consort with giants and other mythological creatures.

In the early Welsh poem "Preiddeu Annwfn", Arthur visits the Celtic Underworld, Annwfn. Even in Geoffrey and Malory, upon being fatally wounded in battle, Arthur is carried to the mystical Avalon, apparently the Underworld home of the Celtic god, Afallach. Many legends around the country attest to Arthur's immortality, for he sleeps in one of numerous caves waiting to return and lead his people. The name Arthur itself appears to derive from the Celtic word Art, meaning "bear". Could Arthur, like so many other Celtic gods, be merely a personification of the many revered animals of the wild? Later to become humanized like Beli Mawr or Bran the Blessed. The constellation of Ursa Major or the Great Bear is, after all, sometimes known as Arthur's Wain. There was indeed a Celtic Bear-God, Artio, worshipped in Switzerland and around Trier, but she was, in fact, a goddess and there is no trace of her in Britain! Some theorists claim Arthur was a late addition to the Celtic pantheon during a resurgence in pagan worship, or possibly a mythical hero, the offspring of a human.



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### Afallach, God of the Underworld

Afallach was the son of Lludd Llaw Ereint (the Silver-Handed). He was one of the Celtic gods of the Underworld. He ruled Avalon where he lived with his daughter, Modron, and her nine sisters. Avalon was like the Celtic heaven, a peaceful island far away where apples grew and after which it became named. It is, of course, best known as the place where the High-King Arthur was taken after he was fatally wounded at the Battle of Camlann. Afallach himself appears in Arthurian legends as King Evelake.

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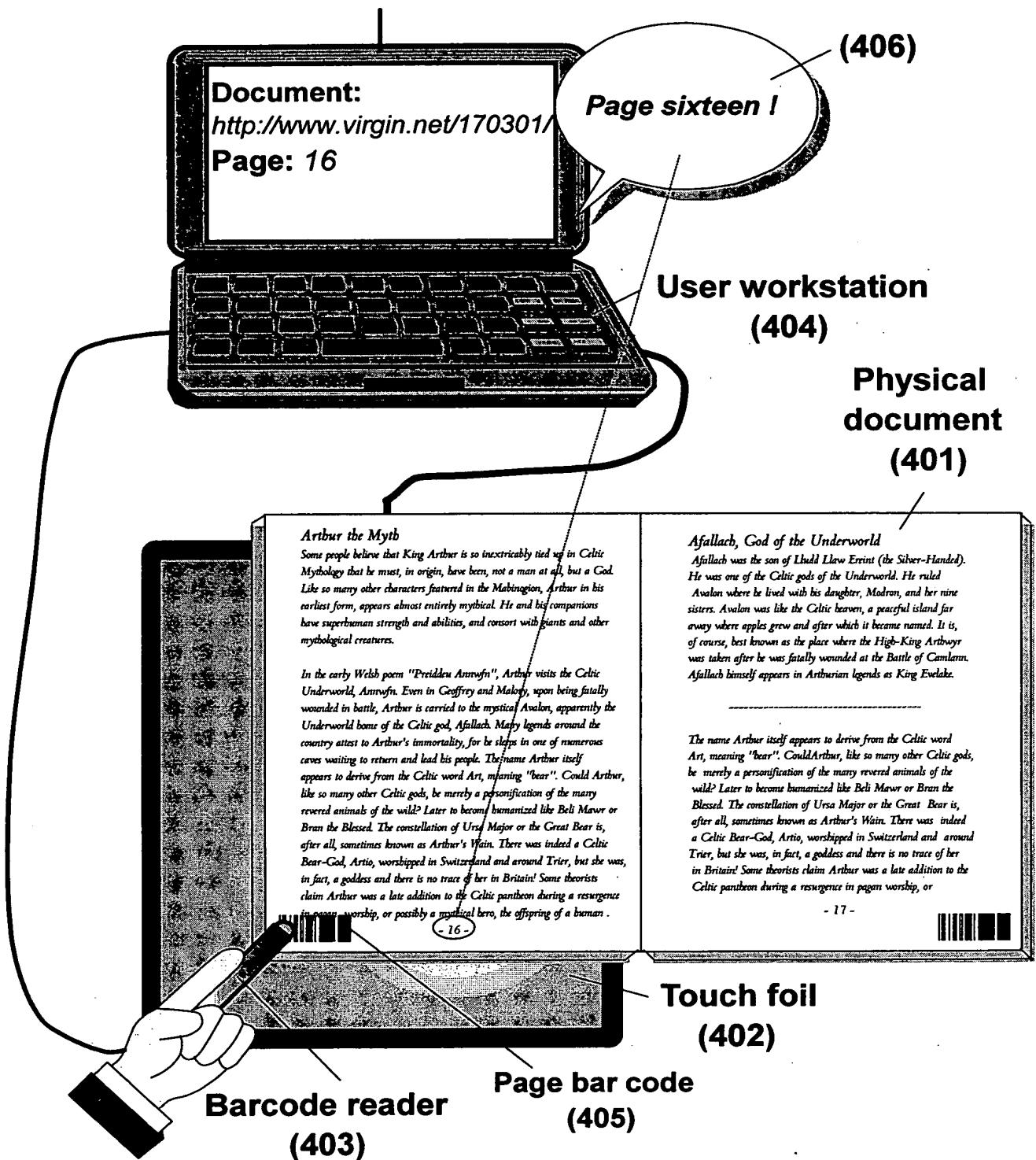
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FIG. 3

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**FIG. 4**

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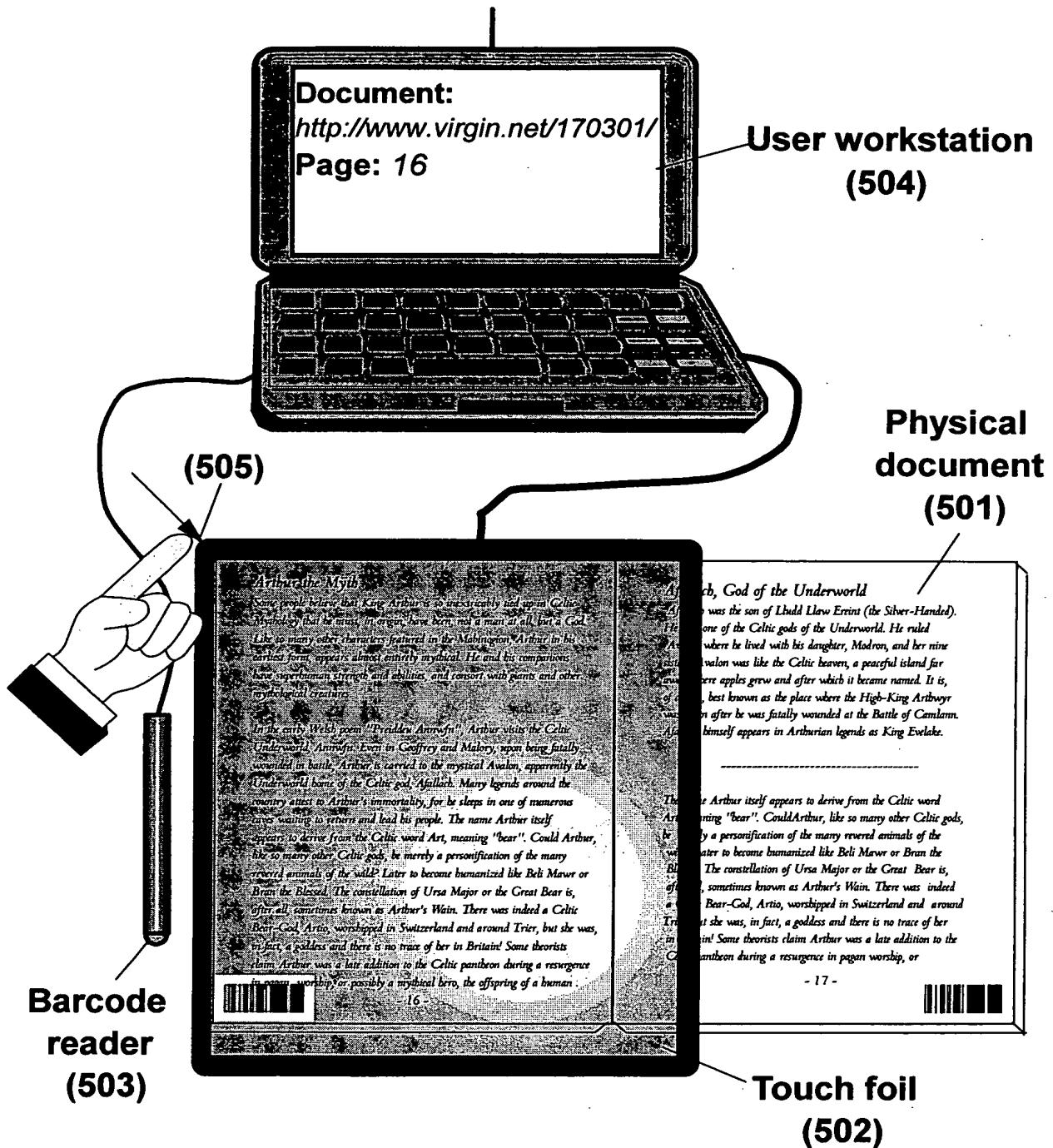
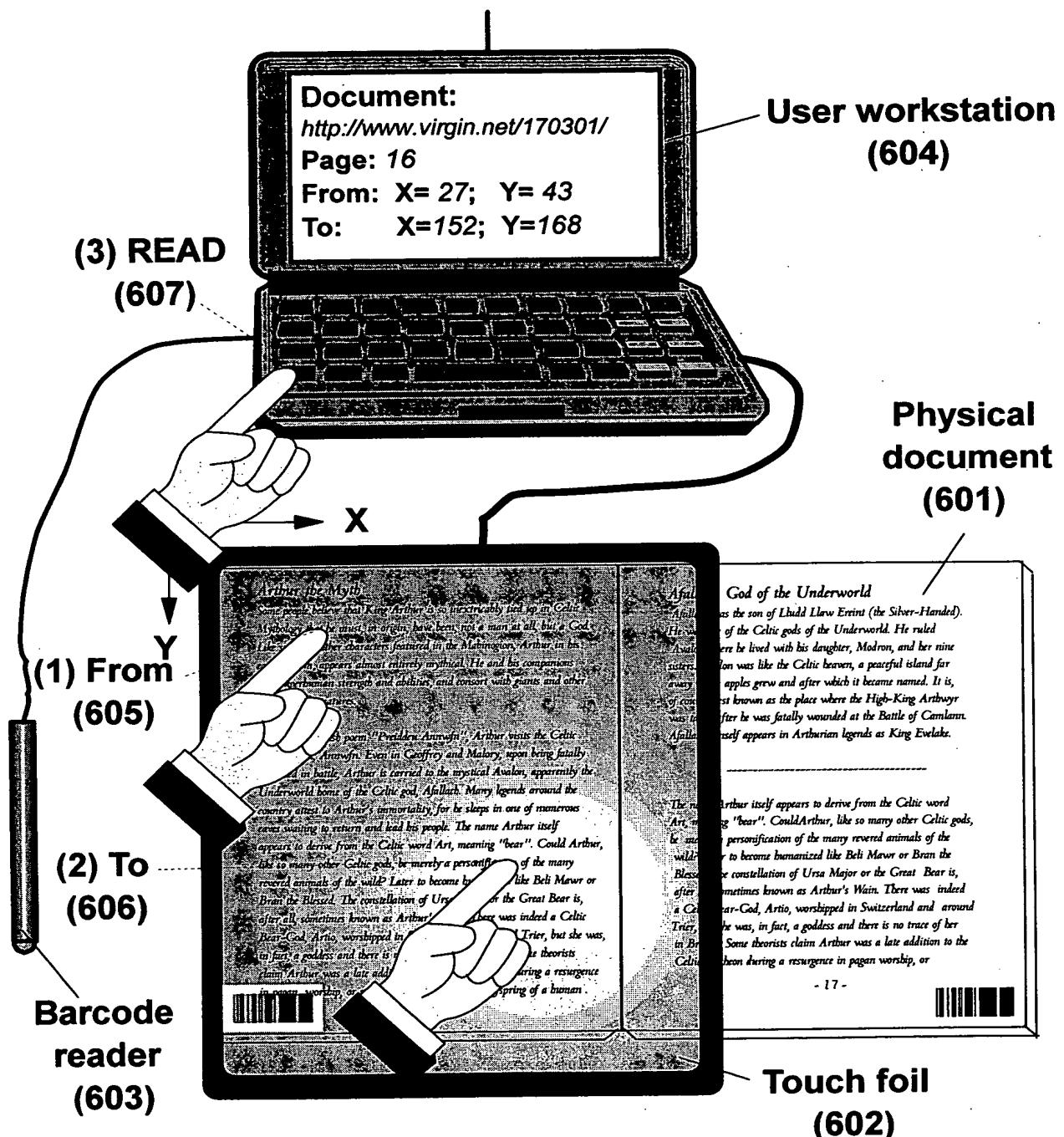


FIG. 5

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**FIG. 6**

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(700)

X

Y

From  
(701)*Arthur the Myth*

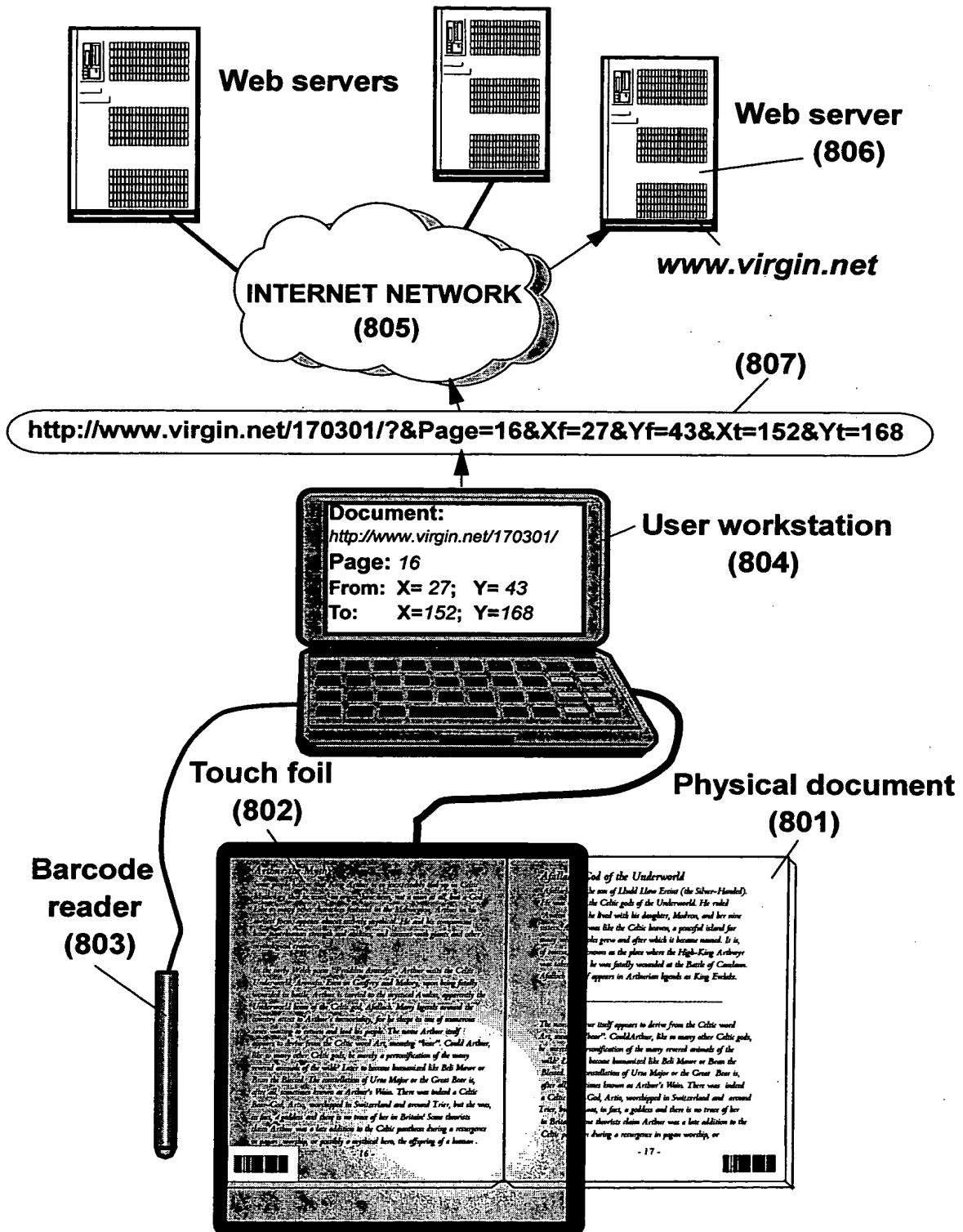
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To  
(702)

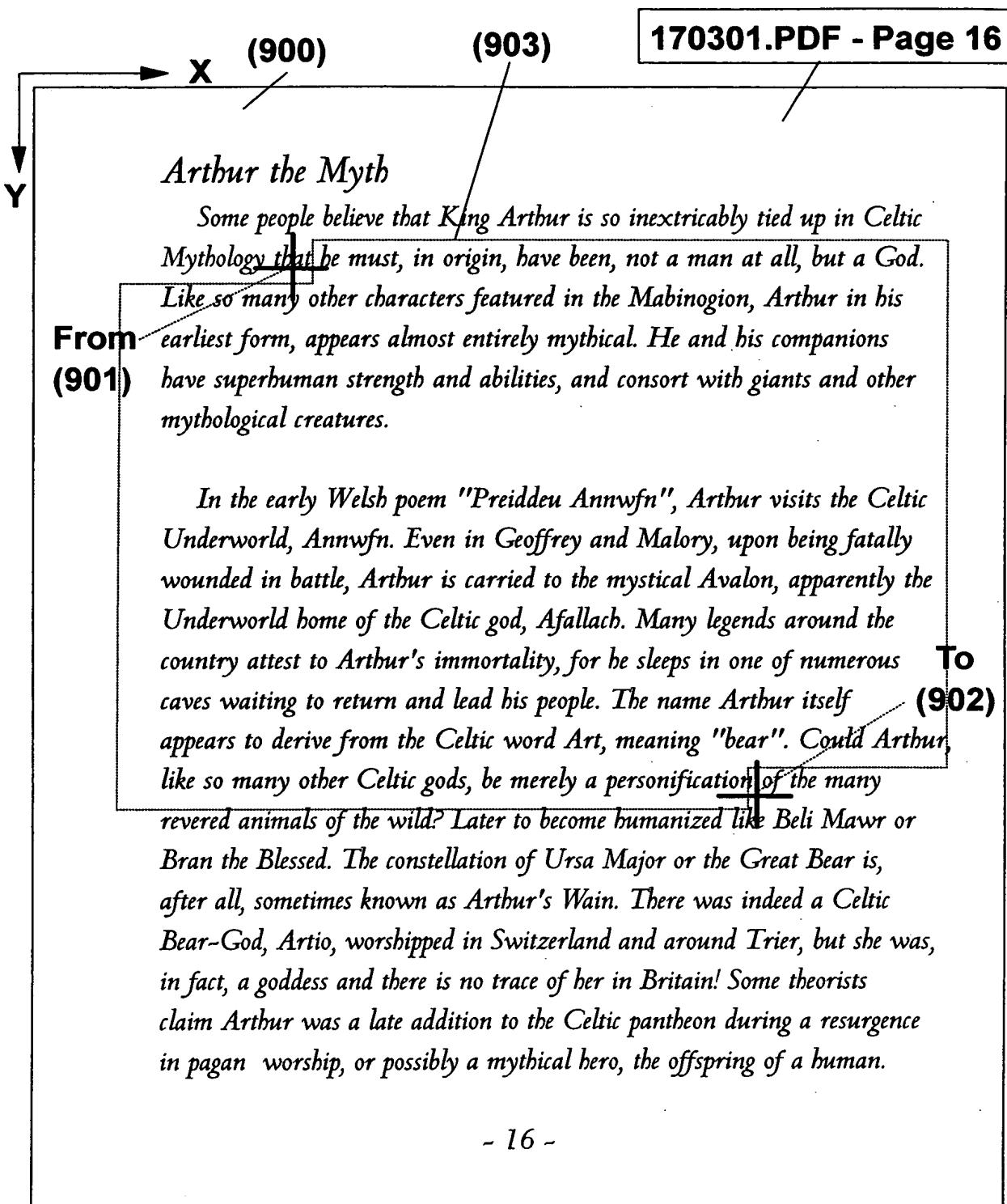
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**FIG. 8**



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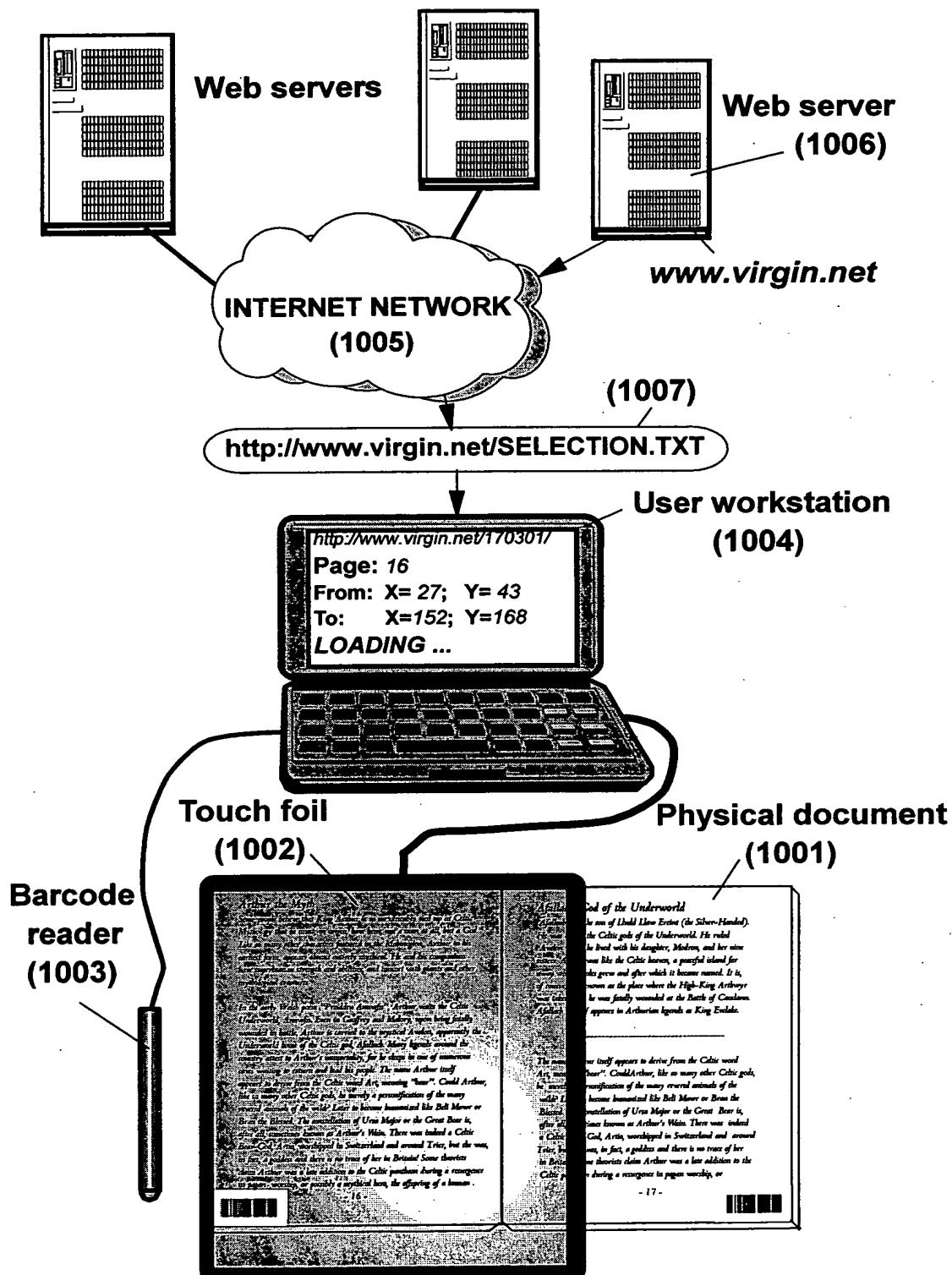


FIG 10

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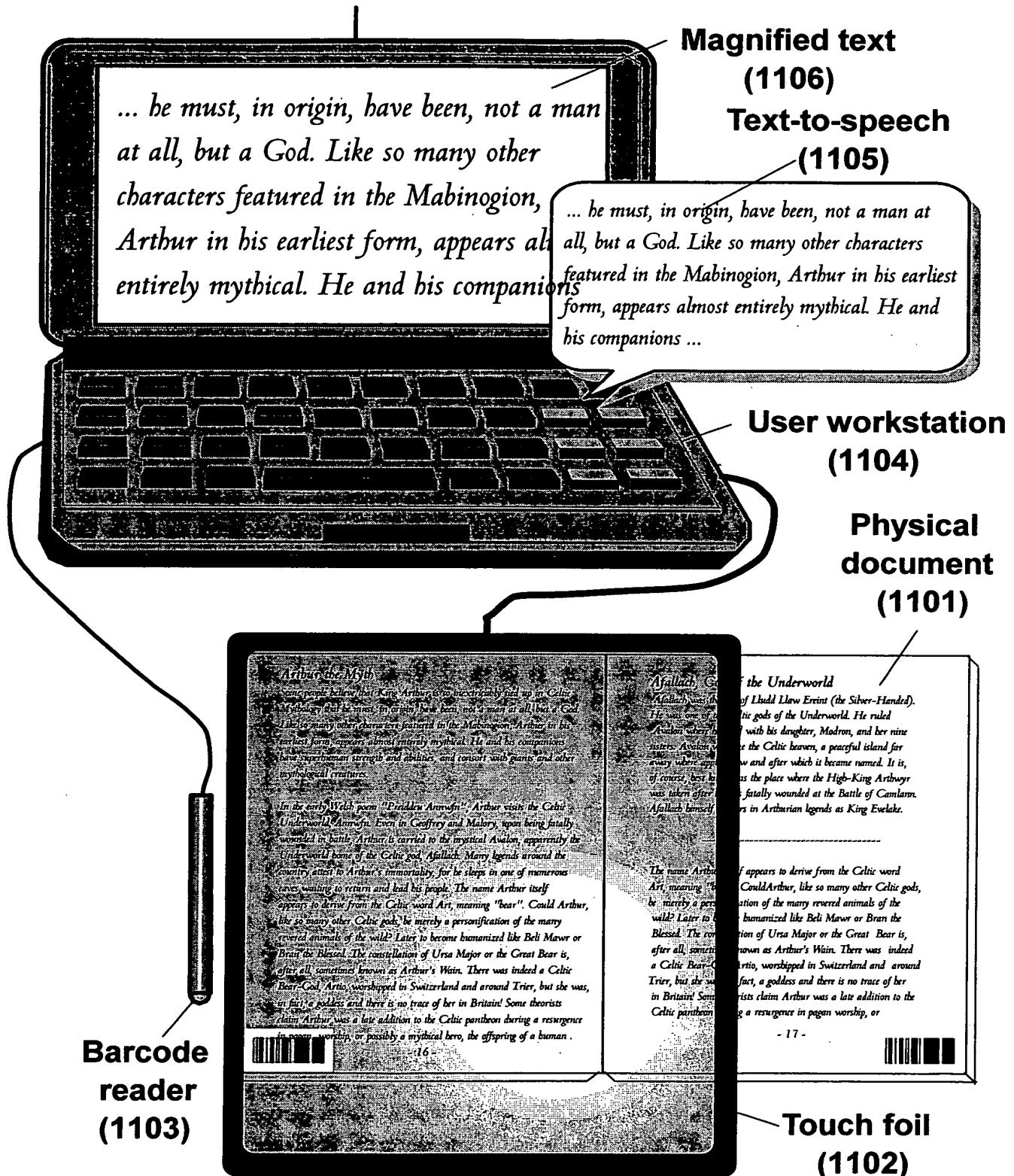


FIG. 11

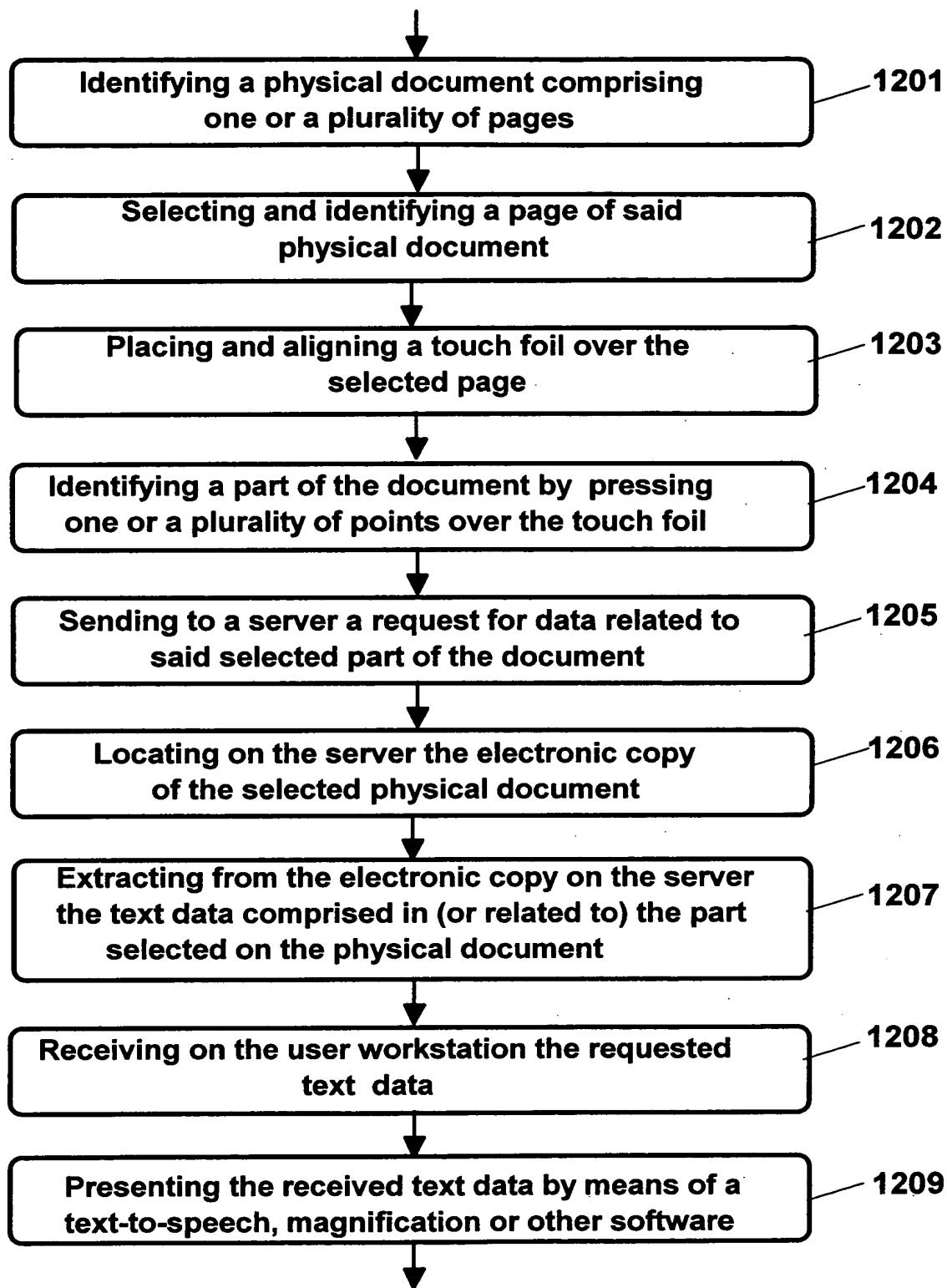


FIG. 12